

John Mail Home
San Augustine, San Augustine County, Texas

HABS NO. Tex-240

HABS
TEX
203-SAUG
C-

PHOTOGRAPHIC
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District # 6 Tex2

Historic American Buildings Survey
Birdsell P. Briscoe, District Officer
4301 Main Street, Houston, Texas

HABS
TEX.
203-SAVG.
51

JONES MAIL HOME
San Augustine, San Augustine County, Texas

Owner T. J. Blount

Date of Erection 1850

Architect Unknown

Builder John A. Williams

Present Condition Fair

Number of Stories Two

Other Existing Records Unknown

Materials of Construction Frame with brick chimneys

Additional Data: This home is three miles from San Augustine on Highway 21. Photographed but not measured. References: Rockefeller Foundation U. of T. Austin, Texas.

This place was first settled by John A. Williams about 1822. He built a cotton gin here in 1825. This was one of the first built in Texas. Jones Mail lived there until his death. After the war it was purchased by Captain T. J. Blount who still owns it. Just beyond this place was a small house occupied by James Purleson on his first arrival in this country.

Jones Mail was a very prominent figure during the Freedonian Rebellion, taking sides with the Americans first, then the Mexicans. This change of belief made him very unpopular with both the Americans and Mexicans and he had to leave the country in self defense.

The Mail house is situated in a beautiful grove of cedars, set well back from the highway. Its only claim or beauty is that it follows simple colonial lines and depends for architectural interest only in the spacing of the windows and the rather massive chimneys at each end of the main part of the residence. The rear is perhaps more interesting than the front, in that the rear service porch is recessed rather than projected.